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MYCOLOGICAL BULLETIN

No. 41

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Columbus, Ohio, September 1, 1905

AN AM-A-NI'-TA NUMBER.—The great interest attaching to this genus of Mushrooms, especially on account of numerous poisonous species, warrants further encroachment on our space. Hence this Number of the BULLETIN may be devoted to some figures and comments additional touching the same.

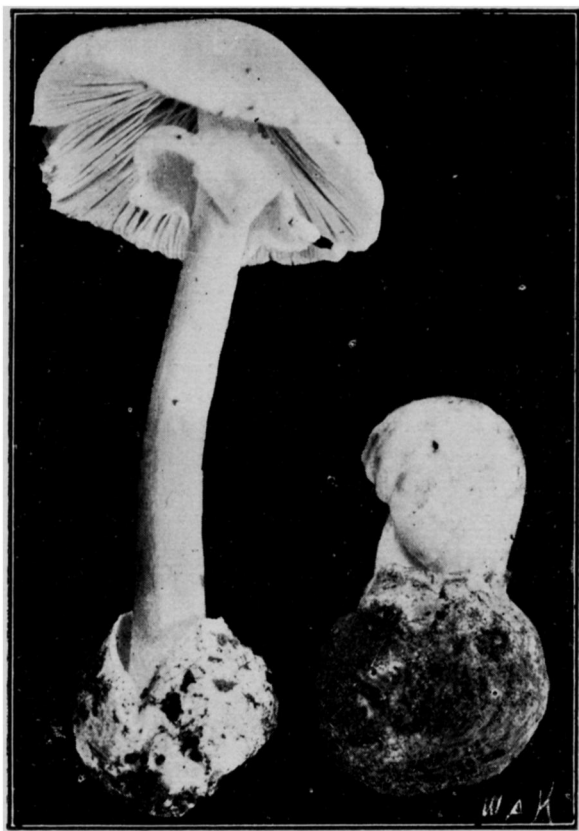


FIG. 132. AM-A-NI'-TA VER'-NA. POISONOUS. Because of its extremely virulent properties it has been called "Destroying Angel." It is pure white, and a beautiful species. Its annulus and volva are very conspicuous and these must always be synonymous with *danger* and *death*. The photo was made from a specimen collected in the woods of the State Farm, Fairfield Co., Ohio, Aug., 1903.

THE NAME AMANITA.—Turning to Saccardo's *Sylloge Fungorum* we find this explanation of the name: "Nomen fungi a Galeno inditum, forte a monte *Amano*. (A name given by Galen to a fungus perhaps from mount Amāno). As to syllabification and pronunciation of the name some authors put it thus: Am-a-ni'-ta; and others so: A-man'-i-ta. Take your choice.

SIZE OF THE GENUS.—In Saccardo's compilation 44 species are enumerated for the entire world: to this might be added 25 species of *Amanitopsis*—the species of the later genus formerly being included under *Amanita*. Perhaps there are two or three dozen of the American species. Professor Morgan enumerates and gives the description of 28 species in the *Journal of Mycology*, 3: 25-33, March, 1887. Professor Peck gives 14 species in *Report of the New York State Museum*, 33: 38-49, 1879. C. G. Lloyd has the same number of species in his *Compilation of the Volvae of the United States*, 2-7, 1893.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE GENUS.—It was the European mycologist, D. C. H. Persoon, who first used the name *Amanita* in modern botany, in his "Synopsis Methodica Fungorum," printed in Goettingen, Germany, in 1801. We will however quote the accurate description as given by the eminent mycologist Fries, which is as follows: "Spores white. Veil or volva universal, at first continuous, distinct from the cuticle of the pileus. Hymenophorum distinct from the stem. All terrestrial."

A GENERAL ACCOUNT OF THE AMANITAS.—In Professor Peck's *Thirty-Third Report* we find a popular description exactly suited to our purpose; we therefore transcribe the same, regretting only that his excellent Reports the earlier ones especially cannot be in the hands of all my subscribers. Here is his language:—

"The species of *Amanita* grow on the ground in the woods, groves and copses. They rarely occur in open fields, unless in the vicinity of trees or near the margin of the woods. Thin, open woods and copses afford the most favorable localities. In the early condition the plant is wholly enveloped in its volva, but as it increases in size the volva is necessarily ruptured. In some species, *A. caesarea*, for example, the volva is distinctly membranous, and includes the young plant as if in an oval sack. At length the upper part of the volva is ruptured, and the pileus and stem are exerted. Sometimes one or more irregular and unequal fragments of the ruptured volva adhere to the surface of the pileus for a time, and are carried up by it in its growth. But usually in these species the surface of the pileus is smooth, and the remains of the ruptured volva wholly adhere to the base of the stem or its bulb like a membranous margin, a sheath or a lacerated cup.

(Continued in the next Number.)

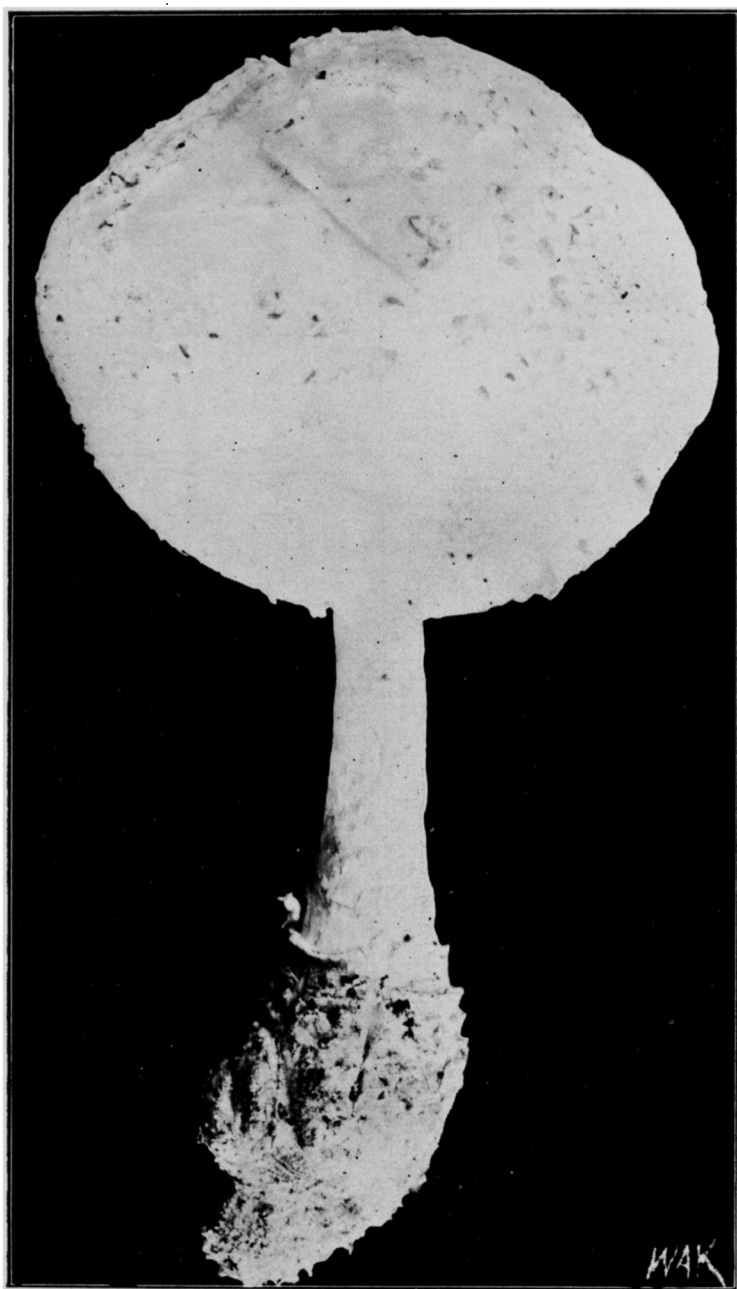


FIG. 133. AM-A-NI'-TA SOL-I-TA'-RI-A. POISONOUS. See FIG. 134.

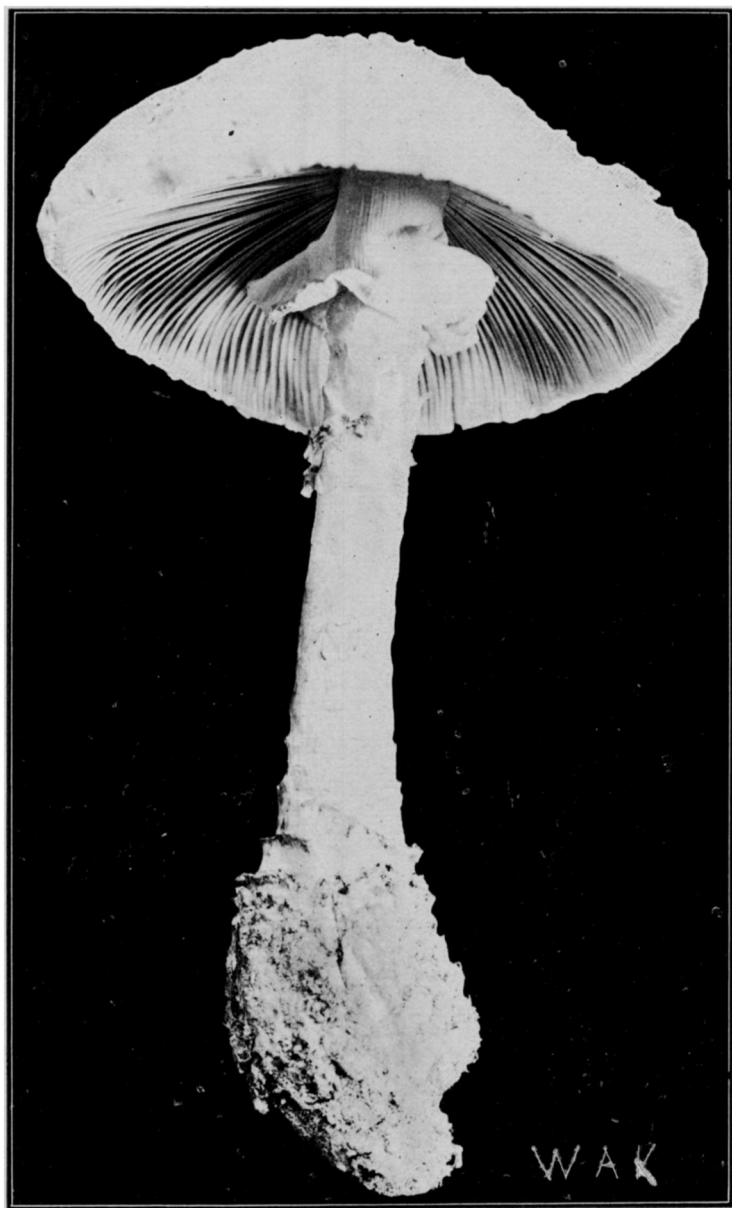


FIG. 134. AM-A-NI'-TA SOL-I-TA'RI-A. POISONOUS. Another of the beautiful white species, *said to be* edible, but I prefer not even to test it. Please use caution. FIG. 133 shows the top of the cap of the same specimen. It was collected in the open woods, sandy soil, of the State Farm, Fairfield Co., Ohio, Aug., 1905.

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